

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 592
Version: Second Engrossment

DATE: March 18, 2013

Authors: Winkler and others

Subject: Transfer of Crosswinds school to the Perpich Center

Analyst: Tim Strom

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Overview

The Crosswinds school serves about 350 students in grades 6 through 10 in an integration magnet school operated by the East Metro Integration District (EMID). EMID is a joint powers association of 10 school districts located in the East Metro area formed to provide collaborative integration services to its member school districts. Among other programs, EMID operates two schools, Crosswinds and Harambee. The EMID board has decided to stop operating these two schools and seeks to transfer the programs to other providers of educational services.

Crosswinds' students come from EMID's member districts with the majority of the students coming from the St. Paul, North St. Paul-Oakdale-Maplewood, South Washington County, and Roseville school districts. The Crosswinds facility, which has been open for about 10 years, was constructed through integration magnet school grants funded by the sale of state general obligation bonds.

The Perpich Center for Arts Education operates a high school for 11th and 12th grade students in Golden Valley. The Perpich Center is a state agency.

This bill allows for transfer of the Crosswinds' facility and non-administrative staff from EMID to the Perpich Center.

Section

- 1 Powers and duties of the Perpich board.** Broadens the charge to the Perpich board to include operating other schools authorized by state law.

Section

2 Interdistrict voluntary integration magnet program. Authorizes the board of the Perpich Center for Arts Education to operate a voluntary integration magnet program.

3 Crosswinds Integration Magnet School.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the terms “board” and “Crosswinds school.”

Subd. 2. Board to operate Crosswinds school. Authorizes the board of the Perpich Center to operate the Crosswinds school program.

Subd. 3. General education funding. Funds the Crosswinds school as if it were a district-run school for purposes of determining general education revenue.

Subd. 4. Special education funding. Requires special education funding to be provided to the Crosswinds school as if it were operated by a school district.

Subd. 5. Pupil transportation. Authorizes the Perpich Center to provide transportation services for the students attending the Crosswinds. Reimburses the costs of the transportation through the interdistrict desegregation transportation aid formula.

Subd. 6. Integration aid. Qualifies Crosswinds for integration aid, as if it were a school district, if the integration revenue formula is reconstituted.

Subd. 7. Other aids, grants, revenue. Makes the Crosswinds school eligible for other aid, grants and revenue as if it were a school district.

Subd. 8. Year-round programming. Allows the Crosswinds school to continue to operate on a year-round calendar (the school is on a calendar called the 45/15 calendar—45 days of instruction, 15 days off from school, with larger breaks in July and December).

Subd. 9. Data requirements. Requires the Crosswinds school to follow the budget and accounting procedures required for school districts. Requires the Crosswinds school to report data in the form and manner determined by the commissioner of education.

4 Transition requirements; Crosswinds School.

Subd. 1. Facilities. Authorizes the East Metro Integration District (EMID) to transfer any real or personal property to the Perpich Center, and notwithstanding the specified uses of state general obligation bond proceeds used to acquire and build the school, it may be used for any public educational use.

Subd. 2. Staff transferred; contracts to remain separate. Requires the Perpich Center to notify all licensed and unlicensed employees of EMID who are assigned to the Crosswinds school of open positions for the 2013-2014 school year. Requires employees to notify the Perpich Center within 30 days of the notice if they are requesting a position and all requests must be granted. Provides for transfer into

Section

appropriate job classes in the state civil service and application of collective bargaining agreements.

Subd. 3. Student enrollment. Allows any student who is currently enrolled at the Crosswinds school to continue attending that school in subsequent years. Allows other students to apply to attend Crosswinds school according to the process established by the Perpich Center board.

Subd. 4. Compensatory revenue. A school's compensatory revenue is calculated on the count of free and reduced meal eligible pupils served by that school site in the previous year (the proposed transfer of the facility will create a new school unit that will not have a compensatory count for the previous year).

Subd. 5. Title 1 Funding. Requires the Crosswinds school to receive Title 1 funding in the same manner as it did when the program was operated by the EMID joint powers board.

Subd. 6. Timelines notwithstanding. Waives any timelines established by the joint powers board for conveying the school to another party.